North Dakota CPA Society

ALTERNATIVE CPA FIRM STRUCTURES GAINING GROUND

By Dr. Sean Stein Smith & Philip J. Whitman

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There is no shortage today of issues that founders, partners and staff at all levels of accounting firms need to keep an eye on. Pipeline concerns, the increasing use of automated accounting work and the demand for non-traditional financial reporting are leading accounting professionals to seek out competitive advantages, such as alternative structures.

Private Equity

Private equity (PE), as well as other alternative investors, have made their presence known in the accounting profession, and there continues to be much discussion around the alternate ownership of CPA firms. While some may be content that PE has finally taken a look at the accounting profession, this involvement is something that should be undertaken only after carefully weighing the pros and cons of doing so.

At a fundamental level, PE firms have much higher earnings expectations — with double-digit returns being the norm rather than the exception — and almost always have an exit strategy and timeline from the start. Pressure to reduce costs and grow revenue can often take partners or other firm leaders by surprise, and it needs to be planned for accordingly.

We are currently seeing the tip of the iceberg related to private equity. The concept of moving from a merger transaction where there typically is no money exchanged at closing, to one where there is cash up front, is starting to become the norm. This can be very exciting for CPA firms that are looking to transition. PE has already entered many CPA firms clients' industries. Private equity and other strategic investors in the accounting industry will continue to grow for the foreseeable future.

Partner with Non-CPA Firms

Strategic partnerships other than PE are also becoming common. These can be a way to build out service lines and typically are turnkey. The strategic partner usually has invested the necessary capital, is passionate and is expertly knowledgeable around the new service lines. The only requirement is for the typical CPA to think differently about what and who they bring to the client relationship and how they will operate.

Building Out New Service Lines

Expanding and building out new service lines is also an option for growth. These service lines can include environmental, social and governance (ESG) reporting, other types of non-financial reporting, cybersecurity considerations, fractional CFO offerings and other client accounting services (CAS) packages.

Expanding Non-Attest Services

Increasing non-attest services is not necessarily new in and of itself but the reality is that clients are in need of an increasing number of non-attest services. Technology tools have finally developed enough to allow practitioners to offer those services. Most common is the alternate practice structure where all attest services are segregated under a separate entity. This helps especially where you have states that prohibit the ownership of CPA firms by non-CPAs. For tax and other advisory services, there is no requirement that the firm register as a CPA firm.

ESOPS

The creation of an ESOP plan at BDO, the first-ever move at an accounting firm of BDO's size, is a clear indication of several things. Firstly, private equity partnerships can (and will be) much more nuanced than simply paying down debt or restructuring operations. Second, accounting firms are starting to take dramatic (and necessary) step to attract and retain talent in an increasingly competitive landscape. Lastly, the traditional partnership model of the accounting firm - if not totally obsolete - is certainly in the midst of a dramatic transition that will impact the profession for years to come.

Regardless of the kind of alternative structure being considered, CPA firms need to be diligent and do their homework before embarking on ways to increase revenue growth.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to September! Another Annual Convention is just around the corner. I hope you will join me in Fargo for this great event.

My wish is you have had the opportunity to enjoy some relaxation this summer. Last night was a perfect summer night. We spent time with family at The Hansen Arts Park in downtown Jamestown. The lawn was immaculate and thick, and the live music was great (Ben Suchy and Jon Wayne). It was a great chance for some reflection about the past year.

As an educator, August/September is always one of the most exciting times of the year. Getting ready for a new school year followed by the influx of students is always energizing. This fall I will be teaching a data analytics class for the first time. I am learning how to use Tableau and if we worked together, you would definitely spend time laughing with me (and at me) as I find my way through a new product. Some of you have given me tips and/or offered to share data sets with me for assignments. Thanks for that! My students will benefit from your kindness.

It has been a year of growth for me while serving as your President. Meeting with many of you on the President's tour (Sherre was a great companion and chauffeur), or at the Annual Convention and/or Management Conference were local highlights. Participating in AICPA Council meetings in Chicago and Washington DC were great experiences. It is always interesting to learn how CPA Societies in other states are trying to tackle current issues.

As I transition to Past-President, AICPA Council meetings will take me to Pasadena and Orlando.

Giving me industry insights is one way you give back to the profession. I ask that you help me encourage our new CPAs to get involved with their profession and communities. Recognizing those that have recently passed the CPA Exam is always a key part of the Sunday dinner at the Annual Convention. I also want to say a special thank you to those who have visited classrooms to talk about the great opportunities in our profession.

We can look forward to this next year as we will continue to work with our GREAT staff at the Society and be led by an awesome set of officers. I am looking forward to learning from our new President Brittany Dunn. The Eide Bailly website has this comment in Brittany's profile: "INSPIRATION: My goal is to take the confusion, anxiety and burden out of the financial and income tax process and turn it into a positive situation through planning and education." I'm sure she will do the same for all of us that are Society members.
I leave you with these phrases from the Marine Prayer: "Keep me true to my best self... - Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. - ...let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold. - If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again."

Robert Dosch, CPA
President

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

KAY SCHRAEDER

Kay Schraeder joins the board of directors of Community Violence Intervention Center. Schraeder serves as the VP and CFO at Minnkota Power Cooperative. Prior to joining Minnkota she worked at Brady Martz. Schraeder earned her degree from UND.

CAREY MOSER

Carey Moser was promoted to Outsourced Accounting Manager. Moser has been with Eide Bailly for 9 years and specializes in various accounting services for contractors.

CHASE DAVIS

Chase Davis was promoted to Manager. Davis has been with Eide Bailly since 2019 and specializes in financial investigations, fraud detection/prevention, and blockchain investigations.

TREVEN HOPFAUF

Treven Hopfauf was promoted to Senior Associate. Hopfauf has been with Eide Bailly for roughly 1.5 years and specializes in providing audit and other assurance services to a variety of industries, such as retailers, manufacturers, and local government counties.

JORDYN VARLAND

Jordyn Varland was promoted to Senior Associate. Varland has been with Eide Bailly for two years and specializes in conducting audits primarily for employee benefit plan and commercial clients.

JULIA STENBERG

Widmer Roel is happy to announce that Julia Stenberg, CPA was promoted to Audit Supervisor. Julia has three years of public accounting experience and graduated from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

BRODY ENGEN

Widmer Roel is happy to announce that Brody Engen was promoted to Tax Supervisor. Brody has over two years of public accounting experience and graduated from North Dakota State University.

ERIC BUCHOLZ

Widmer Roel is happy to announce that Eric Bucholz was promoted to Tax Supervisor. Eric has four years of public accounting experience and graduated from the University of North Dakota.

CANDACE JACOBS

Widmer Roel is happy to announce that Candace Jacobs was promoted to Senior Audit Associate. Candace more than a year of public accounting experience. She graduated from North Dakota State University.

CONGRATULATIONS Exam Passers

(4/1/2023-6/30/2023)

Aberle, Abigail	Halli, Pramod	Roehrich, Maren
Agarwal, Anshika	Hanson, Danielle	Schye, Tucker
Arora, Kapil	Henry, Dylan	Seng, Caitlyn
Bamane, Prashant	Jacobs, Leigh	Sharma, Sunny
Bebongachem, Edien	Johnson, Tavis	Thakur, Bikki
Belgarde, Skylar	Joshi, Shivani	Viswambharan, Parvathy
Bodas, Aditi	Pan, Qiuxiang	
Erickson, Victoria	Parekh, Darshit	
Gader, Grant	Rodgers, Jacob	

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Build relationships with colleagues, return something to the profession, and maybe even have some fun! Whether you're in public accounting, industry, government, education or a more specialized niche. Check out the website below for a list of our ND CPA Society Committees. *ndcpas.org/volunteer*

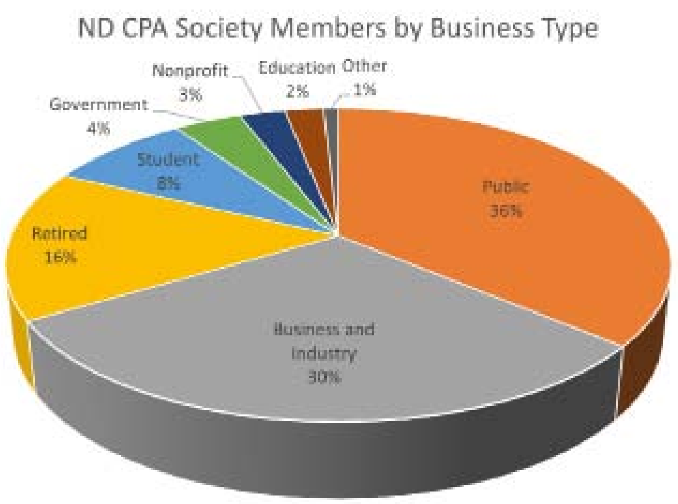
AICPA VOLUNTEER GROUPS

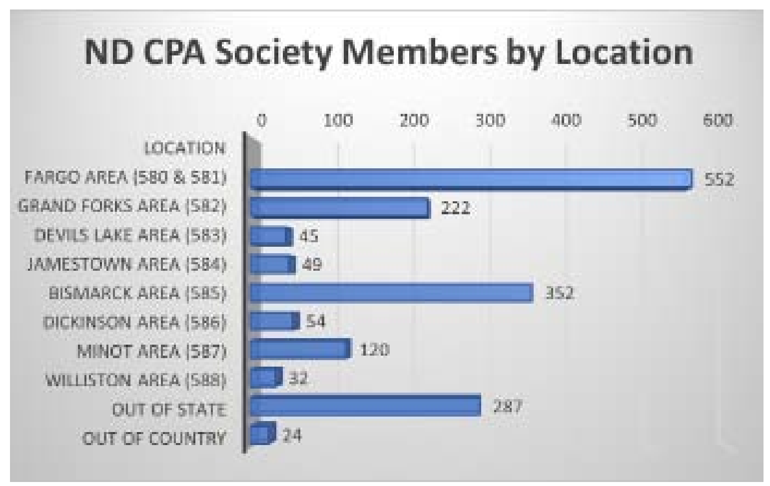
AICPA's Volunteer Central website provides information on the nearly 200 AICPA volunteer groups and approximately 2,500 volunteers. Volunteers serve on the Institute's governing Council, Board of Directors, Committees, Subcommittees, Expert Panels, Resource Panels, Quality Centers, Boards, and Task Forces. For more information please use the website below. Applications are accepted through October 1.
volunteers.aicpa.org

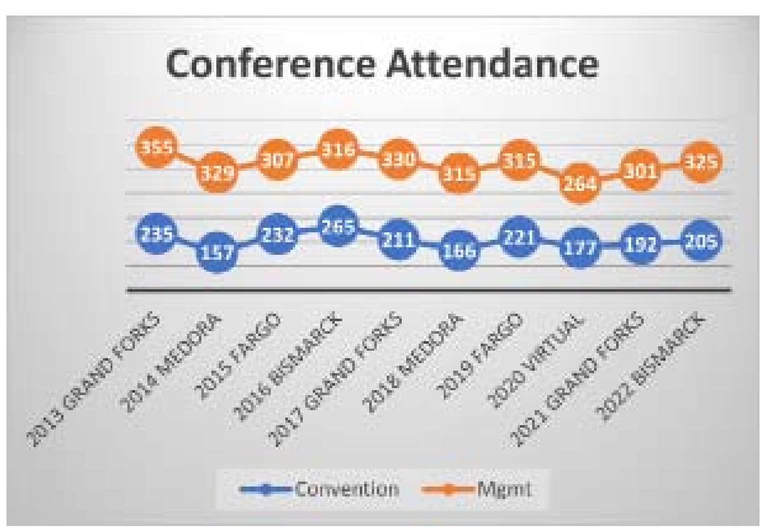
BY THE NUMBERS

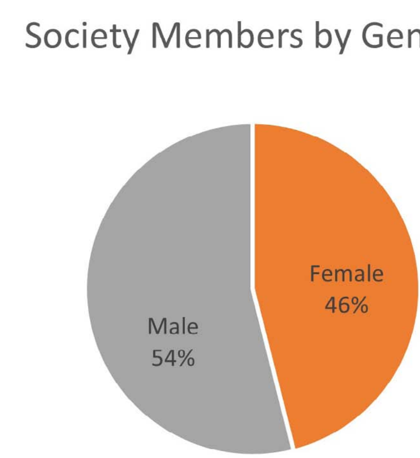
September is one of those months that songs are written about. It signals the end of summer and the start of a new exciting school year for many. Who doesn't love the smell of a new box of pencils and a fresh note pad? People's work schedules seem to become more regular, parents have aspirations of being organized and the Society begins it's new membership year. Here is a snapshot of Society membership and a few other interesting numbers.

1737: Number of ND CPA Society Members 4: How old the Society will be on November 15
10: Number of $1000 Board of Directors Scholarships given away this year
25: Number of $1000 ND CPA Society Foundation Scholarships given away this year
10: Number of free CPE hours to be offered from Sept 1, 2023 - Aug 31, 2024
87: Number of elementary students we spoke to at Marketplace for Kids Education Day
24+: Number of Fargo members working on this year's convention
9+: Number of local committees/task forces to help you get involved with the profession www.ndcpas.org/volunteer
Oct 1: Date applications for AICPA volunteer positions are due https://volunteers.aicpa.org/
96: Number of Exam passers from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 invited to attend the convention for FREE!









Sherre Sattler
Executive Director

Celebrating
MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

50 year members (Joined in 1973)

Austin, Kevin
Bullinger, Michael
Case, Lloyd
Dewing, Gaylen
Guy, William
Lundberg, Terry
Nitschke, Alton
Voller, Nicholas

40 year members (Joined in 1983)

Bartholomay, Mark
Brakke, Timothy
Cosgriff, Suzanne
Cronin, David
Eckroth, David
Engleson, Jeffrey
Gallagher, Michael
Glass, Kenneth
Gokey, Frank
Hafey E., Keith
Hoistad, Peter
Holm, Mark
Johnson, Karen
Keller, Craig
Kotta, Patricia
Krumm, Kenneth
Kubasta, Celeste
Kubischta, Donald
Lysne, Steven
Mahlum, Rhonda
McLeod, James
Michelsen, Timothy
Mongeon, John
Nelson, Paul
Nolte, Gerald
O'Neill, Roxane
Patch, Cheryl
Smith, Arvella
Tollefson, Mark
Traynor, Randy
Ulven, Wilhelmine
Wahlund, Jay
Wilson, Karla
Wolf, Tracy

30 year members (Joined in 1993)

Anderson, Mark
Bata, Linda
Becker, Robert
Birrenkott, Daniel
Blake, JoAnn
Britsch, Steven
Crouse, Lynn
Cuperus, Susann
Dennison, Scott
Dewerff, Michael
Dokken, Carter
Ellingson, Genevieve
Erickson , Todd
Fercho, William
Ford, Christopher
Ganje, Bruce
Goodhart, Jon
Hager, Mary
Hall, David
Hickel Zola, Tammy
Holt, Teresa
Horner, David
Horner, Robert
Huettl, Julie
Jensen, Jon
Johnson, Anthony
Johnson , Vaune
Knecht, Joan
Lempe, William
Martens, Mark
Martin, Larry
Mattson, Perry
Sailer, Mark
Samuelson, Lynette
Schmidt , James
Schmitt, Kathy
Sears, Marianne
Seifert, Mike
Wagner, Stephen
Wenaas, Michael

20 year members Joined in 2003)

Anderson, Tamara
Bondeson, Maxine
Dockter-Kambeitz, Denise
Gerszewski, Tammy
Goven, Robyn
Hasbrouck, Scott
Hauff, Jeremy
Jobe, Brenda
Johnson , Ross
Johnston, Chris
Kang, Sungwoo
Kelsch, Jodi
Luther, Jason
Marchus, Kevin
Miller, Rodney
Nelson-Henin, Gerry
Perrin, Kelly
Peterson, Stephanie
Rhone, Dawn
Sandin, Toni
Simonson, Jeffrey
Thorp, Stephanie
Torske, Kathy
Wald, Katrina

Official Notice
2023 ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION

The NDCPAS annual meeting will be Monday, September 18, 2023 at 7:30 am, at the Fargo Holiday Inn. The meeting will include election of directors, officers, a Foundation trustee, plus comments from the current and new presidents. Each member has one vote at the meeting, except student, affiliate and exam candidate members and those with dues in arrears. Cumulative voting is not allowed. A person may serve as proxy for only one other member. A majority of the members entitled to vote and present (in person or by proxy) shall carry any motion unless otherwise provided in the Articles or Bylaws. To vote by proxy, complete and sign the proxy form below and send to your proxy (a member who will be attending). Feel free to specify voting choices to the proxy.

PROXY BALLOT

I, ______________________, CPA cert. #______, hereby appoint ______________________as my proxy to vote on any and all matters which may come to a vote at the 2023 NDCPAS Annual Meeting.

Signature:______________________________ Date:__________

Voting instructions (optional):

THE NOMINEES

The following slate will be proposed. Voting members present may also nominate members.

Society President (1 to be elected)

Brittany Dunn
Eide Bailly, Fargo
Brittany is a current member of the Board. She has been involved with the Taxation, Young Professional, Membership and Convention committees.

Juan Martinez III
Widmer Roel PC, Fargo
Juan is a current member of the Board. He has served on the YP, Convention, and Membership committees.

Society President-elect (1 elected)

Randy Heller
Widmer Roel PC, Fargo
Randy is a current member of the Board. He has been involved with the Tax, Public Relations and Convention Committees.

Society Secretary (1 to be elected)

Emily Klym
Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, Medora
Emily is a current member of the Board. She has served on the NextGen, Public Relations, YP, Ethics and Convention committees.

Tabitha Talkington
Brady Martz & Associates, Dickinson
Tabitha is a current member of the Board. She has served as the Dickinson Chapter leader as well as on the Taxation, Convention and CPE Advisory committees.

Society Director (3 elected)
[3 year term]

Jeremy Ulmer
Brady Martz & Associates PC, Fargo
Jeremy is currently on the Board. He has served on the convention committee and leads the internal control procedure review for the Society.

Society Director (1 elected)
[1 year term]

Matt Labernik
Eide Bailly LLP, Fargo
Matt is the current chair of the NextGen committee. He has served on the YP, Convention and Strategic Planning committees.

NDCPAS Foundation Trustee
(1 to be elected)

Laura Johnson
University of North Dakota, Grand Forks
Laura has served as the Grand Forks Chapter Leader and on the Convention Committee.

North Dakota CPA Society

MEET OUR MEMBERS

New Retired Profile

RICK LEE

Brief synopsis of work history: I was hired by the CPA firm Zine Hoover & Weideman in Williston ND in 1978, became Partner in 1985 and worked there my entire career, mostly in the tax area of Oil & Gas and Agriculture. The firm changed names many times throughout my 38 years. The firm remains a strong presence in Williston under the name of Lee Suess LLC.

City and State where you currently live: Bismarck, North Dakota

Alma Mater: University of North Dakota

Any current Community Activities? As of June 30, 2023, I completed nine years on the UND Foundation Board of Directors

Favorite thing about your career as a CPA? Working with so many individual clients, there were many unique situations that required me to work through and try to solve.

Words of advice for those currently in the profession? Get involved with your profession and your community. You will always get more back than you put in and will create a variety of forever friends in the process.

Any comments or thoughts on how the Society or your involvement in the Society benefited you? The Society has created a network of individuals who I can say have become lifelong friends.

Tell us about your family: I am currently married to Lori, my wife of 47 years and we have three sons…Matt, Nick, and Chris. Nick's wife, Heidi, currently serves on the Society Board. We also have four grandchildren…Isiah (22), Brady (15) and twin girls Peyton & Reagan (7).

Something most people don't know about me: Besides travel, golf, and attending UND sporting events, I actually enjoy sitting at home and doing Sudoku or reading a good book… Grisham, Sandford, Balducci or Child.

SUMMER AUNE

Current Job : Senior Tax Associate/Eide Bailly / Fargo, ND

Hometown: Fergus Falls, MN

Alma Mater/Degree: NDSU/Bachelor Degree in Accounting

Any current Professional Activities? NDCPAS – NextGen Recruiting Committee

What inspired you to become a CPA? I knew I liked Accounting since high school, but I never planned to actually become a CPA when I was younger. It was after taking a few accounting classes in college, hearing a few professors speak about the CPA exam, and a little extra nudge from my college advisor, I started to consider it more. Then, I noticed a lot of my fellow colleagues around me planning to sit for the CPA exam, and I quite honestly just didn't want to feel left out, so I figured I would too!

What is your favorite thing about your job? I truly enjoy that we are challenged every day to learn and to grow. I am always learning something new, and I've realized that it is quite impossible to know everything - so it keeps things interesting and keeps me looking forward to coming to work each day.

What was your first job? My first job was working as a Dietary Aide at a nursing home.

Tell us about your family: My fiancé, Jack, is an avid farmer and one of the hardest working people I know. We have a 2.5 year-old black lab named Dash who absolutely loves to go to the farm and run off his energy. I also have 3 older siblings and they each have 2 boys, so I am a very proud Aunt to 6 nephews. My parents live on a lake and they strive to get out in the pontoon every day of every summer and throw out a line or two. I strongly value the time I get to spend with family.

Tell us about a mentor influenced you: I have several mentors and fellow co-workers I've looked up to since I was an intern. I truly think there's just something so powerful in seeing others succeed and grow and work through things, which then, in-turn, inspires me to do the same thing.

What do you like to do in your free time: In my free time, I love being able to spend time with Jack and Dash. We like to go for walks on the trail near our home. I also really enjoy gardening and manicuring the landscaping/flowers in our yard. We also love going to the lake and jumping in the water (including Dash). I absolutely love the summertime and the sunshine, so any outdoor activities would be a win in my book.

Favorite Vacation or Dream Vacation: I was able to go to Hawaii in December of 2019 (and while I was there, I was notified that I passed my 4th and final section of the CPA exam). Hawaii definitely stole my heart and I would love to go back there some day!!

Favorite Food:

It is so hard to choose, but usually when I go out to eat I end up ordering a chicken bacon ranch wrap with a side of sweet potato fries.

Something most people don't know about me:

I grew up listing to (and dancing to) artists like Frank Sinatra, Barry White, Elvis Presley, The Beach Boys, The Beetles, Dwight Yoakam, Johnny Cash.. the list goes on.. all thanks to my awesome parents.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

16 CPE Credits
Including 2 Ethics Credits & 9 YB Credits

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17				
3:00 - 5:00 pm	Registration			
4:00 - 5:15pm	New CPA Orientation			
5:00 - 9:00 pm	Social Hour followed by Recognition Dinner			
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18				
7:00 - 8:00 am	Registration/Breakfast/Exhibits			
7:30 - 8:00 am	Annual Meeting			
8:00 - 9:05 am	A. Professional Issues Update | Carla McCall, AICPA Vice Chair			
9:20 - 11:00 am	B. Economic Update| Chris Kuehl			
11:10 - 12:00 pm	C. Build it and They Will Thrive | Harriet Turk			
12:00- 1:00 pm	Lunch			
12:30 - 6:00 pm	Golf - Village Green Golf Course			
1:00 - 2:40 pm	D1. IT Considerations in Govt. Accounting	D2. Partnerships & S Corps: Reporting Basis	D3. Differences Between Teams, SharePoint, and OneDrive	D4. Building Blocks to Success (in-person only)
3:00 - 4:40 pm	E1. Grants Management Update	E2. Life after 100% Bonus - What is MACRS?	E3. Top Tech Productivity Tips & Tricks	E4. Change the Game & Win (in-person only)
6:00 pm	Social (6:00 pm) & Dinner (6:30 pm) with Entertainment			
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19				
7:00 - 8:00 am	Registration/Breakfast/Exhibits			
8:00 - 9:40 am	F. Becoming an Everyday Ethicist | Amanada "Jo" Erven *2 Ethics Credits*			
10:00 - 11:40 am	G1. GASB Update	G2. Individual Tax Update	G3. Tales of True Tech Crime Ripped from the Headlines	G4. The Tiny Habits Method to Reduce Stress (in-person only)
11:40 - 12:40 pm	Lunch			
12:40 - 1:55 pm	H1. Yellow Book Update	H2. Business Tax Update	H3. Tech Update	H4. Whole Brain Living to Create Work/Life Balance (in-person only)
2:05 - 3:20 pm	I1. Hot Topics in Government Accounting	I2.Real Estate Tax Update	I3.Supercharging Your Spreadsheet Collaboration	I4. Motivation or Manipulation: How People are Driven (in-person)
3:40 - 4:30 pm	J. Lead Your Evolution | Judson Laipply			

HOTEL INFORMATION:
Fargo Holiday Inn
3803 13th Avenue South, Fargo, ND 58103
**Hotel block available until Wednesday, August 16*

GOLF:
Village Green Golf Course
3421 Village Green Blvd, Moorhead, MN 56561
$75 with registration for Convention
$95 without registration for Convention (includes lunch)

FEES:
Add $50 if registering after Friday, September 1.

$450	Society Member
$550	Nonmember
Free	Exam Passer from July 2022 to June 2023
$250	Lifetime Member
$375	One Day Society Member
$425	One Day Nonmember
$40	Sunday Dinner Only

UPCOMING CPE OPPORTUNITIES

8:30 AM - 4:10 PM | 8 CPE hours
$299 Member | $349 Nonmember

Schedule of Events:

8:30 - 10:10 AM	Guardian of the Economy: Unraveling the Mystery Behind America's Central Bank **|** *Tyler Schipper*
10:20 - 12:00 PM	Employment Law: Update, Trends, and What's Next for 2024 **|** *MacKenzie Hertz*
12:30 - 1:20 PM	Anti Fraud and Internal Controls **|** *Vincent Walden*
1:30 - 2:20 PM	Cybersecutiry for CPA's **|** *Devin Sardelli*
2:30 - 4:10 PM	CFO & Controller Update **|** *Jim Lindell*

CPE WEBINAR CATALOG:

WE ARE EXCITED FOR YOU TO LOOK AT THE NEW & IMPROVED CATALOG AT NDCPAS.ORG/CPE.

Check out over 1,000 webinars offered by our vendors that you can register for with ease and a large variety of topics available. There are also ways to search for exactly what you want.

ND TAX PRACTITIONER'S INSTITUTE

Tuesday, November 15 - Wednesday November 16 | Live Webinar & Fargo
8:00 AM - 4:45 PM | 17 CPE hours
$375 Two Day In-Person | $350 Two Day Webinar
$250 One Day In-Person | $225 One Day Webinar
Registration deadline is November 1, add $50 after that date for a late fee.

Tuesday, November 15 | Live Webinar & Fargo
5:00 - 7:00 PM | 2 CPE Ethics hours
$ 125 In-Person | $115 Webinar
Registration deadline is November 1, add $50 after that date for a late fee.
Each participant will receive the Federal Tax Workbook which is published by the University of Illinois.

To Register for the Institute:
Go to https://und.edu/conferences/nd-tax-institute/ or call 701-777-4894.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

SEPTEMBER WEBINARS

- 11 Risk Assesment for Small Business Audits
- 12 Governmental GAAP Update - 2023
- 13 Tactical Cash Management
- 14 Surgent's The Most Critical Challenges in Not-for-Profit Accounting Today
- 15 Cases in Corporate Ethics: Discuss Real Life Conflicts
- 16 Surgent's Annual Accounting and Auditing Update
- 20 Payroll Essentials: Payroll Returns Done Right
- 21 MNCPA B&I Leadership Series; Resilience: Leading Successful Change
- 22 K2's Advanced QuickBooks Tips & Techniques
- 25 Partnerships: How to Calculate Partner Basis
- 27 Surgent's Top Business Tax Planning Strategies
- 28 What You Can Learn From the Statement of Cash Flows

OCTOBER WEBINARS

- 2 Understanding the Form 990 and its Preparation Prerequisites
- 4 Financial Statement Fraud
- 5 Surgent's Mastering the Basics of Inventory Accounting
- 9 Advanced Cost Accounting
- 12 The Yellow Book: From Beginning to End
- 17 Free Member Webinar: Building Trust & Respect with Diverse Personality Styles
- 18 The Best Federal Tax Update Course by Surgent
- 23 K2's Microsoft Teams
- 26 MNCPA B&I Leadership Series: Building a High-Performance Hybrid Team
- 31 Conflict Resolution with Empathy Method & Hybrid Idea Resolution

There are many more webinars at ndcpas.org/cpe!

FREE CPE OPPORTUNITIES

Building Trust and Respect with Diverse Personality Styles

Tuesday, October 17 | Live Webinar
8:00 - 12:00 am| 4 CPE hours
Free for Members | $175 Nonmembers
Instructor: Dr. Michael Kiefer
The new workforce requires leaders to quickly identify and understand divers personalities. They must recognize their own style- how they project themselves, communicate and manage others. This session introduces the: talents, habits, and preferred methods of communication for each of the 4 personality styles. Participants will take a proprietary assessment during class and receive valuable insights on their results. They will also learn the importance of enhancing their "likeability factor".

Navigating the Tax Implications of Different Trusts

Thursday, November 2 | Webinar
3:00 - 3:50 PM | 1 CPE hour
Free for Members | $50 Nonmembers
Instructor: John Oelke
More information coming soon!

Overcome the Overwhelm with Strategic Management

Tuesday, October 17 | Live Webinar
10:00 - 11:15 am| 1.5 CPE hours
Free for Members | $79 Nonmembers
Instructor: Susan Stuzel
Time is the only asset we have that is not renewable. It is valuable and at the end of the day, we spent our time on what was most important. We must be intentional in how we use our time, or we will lose it. Many of us are overwhelmed with the magnitude of what we need to accomplish every day. This workshop-style presentation will walk you through how you are currently using your time, evaluating that against what your ideal work day/week looks like, and then implementing strategies to create the change you desire. Walk away with real action items to address their overwhelm.

North Dakota CPA Society

UPDATES FROM THE STATE TAX COMMISSIONER

Homestead Tax Credit
As the 2023 legislative session came to a close, several tax programs were expanded,making more North Dakota residents eligible for the state's existing tax credits. This included the Homestead Property Tax Credit.

With the new changes, applicants will qualify for the program if they are 65 years of age or older and/or are permanently disabled, live at the address listed on the credit application and do not have an income that exceeds $70,000.

Applications for the credit are due by Feb. 1 of each year and will need to be filed with the homeowner's local assessor or county director of tax equalization.

Primary Residence Credit
North Dakota residents will have a new tax credit to apply for in the 2024 tax season. The Primary Residence Credit will open the door for all homeowners to receive up to a $500 tax refund upon completion of an application.

Qualified applicants will include those who own a house, mobile home, town home, duplex or condo within the state. The application for the Primary Residence Credit will be found on the North Dakota Office of State Tax Commissioner's website. The agency will be sending out more information as the 2024 tax season draws near.

Changes to North Dakota Income Tax
In addition to changes made to the state's property tax programs, new income tax laws were also put into place following the session.

House Bill 1244 – Tax Credit for Employment of Developmentally Disabled
House Bill 1244 reenacted the existing income tax credit, related to employment of individuals with developmental disabilities and/or severe mental illness and was made permanent under state law. The existing provisions of the law were unchanged, except the statewide limitation on the number of eligible employees was removed.

Senate Bill 2147 – Income Tax Deduction for Peace Officer Retirement
Peace officers have a new individual income tax deduction on their retirement benefits thanks to the passing of Senate Bill 2147. Eligible peace officers will need to meet one of two optional deduction qualifications.

1. The individual has at least 20 years of service as a peace officer.

2. Was a peace officer that has been medically certified with a mental or physical disability resulting in the inability to no longer perform their duties.

Senate Bill 2293 – Income Tax Deduction for Military Pay
An individual income tax deduction for military pay was also created this legislative session. This includes service members on active duty for all military pay received by members of the national guard and reserve members and includes pay for bonuses, education and training.

House Bill 1383 – Tax Credit for Compensation Paid to an Apprentice
Also beginning in the 2023 tax year, an income tax credit that allows up to 10% of the qualified compensation paid to an apprentice employed in the state. Those who qualify will need to meet the following requirements:

The apprentice must be in an apprenticeship program certified by the U.S. Department of Labor or be an electrical apprentice registered under North Dakota law.

The cumulative amount of tax credits earned by a taxpayer is limited to $3,000 for all taxable years combined.

A taxpayer may earn a tax credit for no more than five apprentices at one time.

Any credit earned in an excess of the tax liability may not be carried over to succeeding tax years. The credit earned through a pass free entry is allowed to each owner in proportion to their respective interests in the passthrough entity.

All income tax deductions, featured in this article, go into effect in the 2023 tax year.

Those looking to learn more can visit tax.nd.gov to read the latest edition of the North Dakota Office of State Tax Commissioner's Income Tax Newsletter.

Brian Kroshus
Tax Commissioner

CLASSIFIEDS

North Dakota Practices for Sale (with gross revenues): Reduced- Southeastern ND CPA $905K; Southwestern ND $430K; Southeast ND (within an hour of Fargo) $335K. East Central ND Practice $740k; Far SW ND Bookkeeping and Tax $250K; Coming Soon - Fargo Area Practice $300k; For more information call 800-397-0249 or view listing details and register for free email updates at www.APS.net.

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ETHICS CORNER

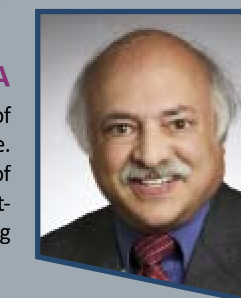
The Case of Semi Appropriate Services

Colon Blough is the owner of a heavy semi-truck dealership Semi Colon, Inc. His accounting staff has limited knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and the implementation of the new lease standard has them perplexed. His outside CPA, Lance Allott,was willing to come to the rescue. Lance knows this area well and told Colon he could do what needs to be done.

Lance said "Get er done" and he did; including drafting policies, supervising the accounting department and design processes and adjusting the FIS (financial information system). SemiColon, a June fiscal year end company, never had an audit in the past. In August, the bank toldColon he needs an audited financial statement.

Q. Is Lance's firm independent?

A. No. See 1.295.113. Even though Lance did the work in April of 2023, and the audit would occur in the fall of 2023; the services were during the period to be audited. Independence has been impaired by Lance's services.



Charles Selcer, CPA

Charles Selcer, CPA, has over 30 years of audit and business consulting experience. His areas of specialization include audits of distribution companies, SEC registrants, not-for-profit organizations & charities, including organizations subject to Circular A-133.

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